

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a novel process for producing an N-formyl-neutral-amino acid and N-formylaspartic acid. The present invention also relates to a novel process for producing N-formyl- $\alpha$ -L-aspartyl-L-phenylalanine methyl ester as a precursor of  
5 aspartame and aspartame, as well as a method of making a precursor of aspartame and aspartame by using the same.